



## REBUILD IOWA OFFICE (RIO) LEGISLATIVE WEEKLY

JANUARY 19, 2009

### RIO MISSION:

The Rebuild Iowa Office will lead the State of Iowa's efforts to rebuild safer, stronger and smarter in the wake of the 2008 severe storms and catastrophic flooding.

### RIO VISION:

We envision a resilient Iowa that will be safe, sustainable and economically strong for its people, reaffirming its ties to the land, rivers, environment and rich cultural history.

### CONTACT THE RIO:

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### WHAT IS THE REBUILD IOWA OFFICE?

The Rebuild Iowa Office (RIO) is the operational component of the recovery efforts. The RIO, headed by Lt. Governor Patty Judge, is a state agency with legal authority granted to it by the Governor in his June 27, 2008 Executive Order 7. The mission of the RIO is to ensure that the State of Iowa rebuilds safer, stronger and smarter than before from the catastrophic flooding and severe storms of 2008. The RIO is supported by a professional staff to allow it to achieve its mission, vision, goals and objectives. Throughout its initiatives, the RIO is committed to a recovery and rebuilding process that is fair and equitable to everyone.

The RIO has been given authority in a variety of critical areas, including the following:

- coordinating state activities concerning the rebuilding effort;
- securing funding and other resources needed for the recovery, and establishing priorities and disbursement guidelines for any such funds received;
- establishing federal and state legislative agendas associated with the recovery effort;
- establishing principles and policies for redevelopment;
- establishing timelines and benchmarks associated with the recovery effort;
- providing opportunities for public and business input;
- ensuring transparency in the recovery process; and
- speaking with one voice on behalf of all of the State of Iowa, to include advocating for the resources necessary to spur recovery and communicating progress, status and needs of the recovery to officials, community advocates and the public.

### "THE RIO" (PRONOUNCED REE'-OH)

The Rebuild Iowa Office is the state-level entity charged with Iowa's recovery from the 2008 disasters. With 20 handpicked employees both borrowed from existing state agencies and selected from outside state government, the Rebuild Iowa Office is supported by federal funding through Community Development Block Grant and Economic Development Administration Grant.



Offices for the RIO are located in the Wallace Building.

## RIAC AND REBUILD IOWA TASK FORCES

The Rebuild Iowa Advisory Commission (RIAC) is a 15-member non-partisan Commission appointed by Governor Culver. The Members of the RIAC assist the RIO in providing the vision, creativity, and leadership to identify, prioritize, and address the short- and long-term issues of recovery. The Commission developed both an initial 45-Day Report which addressed immediate disaster-related issues and a 120-Day Report focused on long-term issues. Members of the Commission also serve as Task Force Chairs for the nine RIO Recovery Task Forces, helping to facilitate dialogue on complex recovery issues and make

recommendations in focused issue areas.

The nine task forces were created to focus on impacts experienced by specific sectors. Task force activities include:

- Fact-gathering and identification of best practices.
- Community outreach.
- Public education.
- The preparation of public reports and development of recommendations of recovery-related policies and priorities.

The following nine task forces covered a variety of areas and offered a chance for Iowans to be

heard:

- Housing;
- Infrastructure and Transportation;
- Economic and Workforce Development;
- Public Health and Health Care;
- Agriculture and Environment;
- Education;
- Floodplain Management and Hazard Mitigation;
- Cultural Heritage and Records Retention;
- Long-Term recovery Planning.



### FACTS:

**85 OF IOWA'S 99 COUNTIES WERE PRESIDENTIALLY-DECLARED DISASTER COUNTIES.**

**MORE THAN 40,000 IOWANS REGISTERED FOR DISASTER ASSISTANCE.**

## THE REBUILD IOWA OFFICE WEB SITE

When individuals are seeking more information about the status of the state's recovery and rebuilding efforts, the first step is a visit to the Rebuild Iowa Office Web site.

Managed and updated in-house, the Rebuild Iowa Office Web site features the most recent recovery information including current disaster

assistance data and figures, Jumpstart information, press releases from the RIO and partnering agencies, and photos of the disaster and recovery efforts.

With in-house management, the RIO Web site is able to meet the needs of its visitors by responding to their concerns and developing new content to further

explain developments in disaster recovery.

The RIO has also been active in various social media outlets, including Facebook and Twitter, to offer more ways to receive updates and recent news.

For up-to-date news and events from the RIO, including links to the RIO in social media, visit the Rebuild Iowa Office Web site at [www.rio.iowa.gov](http://www.rio.iowa.gov).

